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23 June 1995

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fiftieth session
Items 39, 75 and 81 of the
preliminary list*
LAW OF THE SEA
STRENGTHENING OF SECURITY AND
COOPERATION IN THE
MEDITERRANEAN REGION
MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fiftieth year

Letter dated 21 June 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

With reference to the letter of the Permanent Representative of Greece circulated as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council (A/50/216-S/1995/476), I have the honour, upon instructions of my Government, to bring to your attention a potentially serious situation with respect to the issue of territorial sea in the Aegean and to represent Turkey's position in this regard.

The Greek Parliament has recently ratified the 1982 Law of the Sea Convention. The statements of Greek government officials, as reported in the Greek press, and confirmed by the aforementioned letter, indicate that Greece intends to extend the breadth of its territorial sea in the Aegean from the present 6 miles to 12 miles. As stated by Greek officials, this decision will be taken at the appropriate time in accordance with the Greek "national strategy".

The issue of the maritime jurisdiction areas in the Aegean and the breadth of the territorial sea in this context is a serious matter that requires careful consideration. The elements involved should be considered in their proper

* A/50/50/Rev.1.

context based on facts and be put under objective analysis. It is regrettable that the Greek letter at reference represents an attempt to distort and misrepresent the well-known position of Turkey on this issue and the underlying legitimate reasons, in connection with the recent declaration adopted by the Turkish Grand National Assembly.

The purpose of this letter is to set the record straight in this regard.

Turkey and Greece have a number of bilateral disputes concerning the Aegean Sea. These differences essentially involve the status quo in the Aegean as determined by the relevant international treaties and instruments, particularly the 1923 Lausanne peace treaty.

Turkey attaches vital importance to the maintenance of the status quo in the Aegean with respect to maritime jurisdiction areas. In this context, the breadth of the territorial sea is the cardinal element of the delicate balance of rights and interests of the two neighbouring countries in the Aegean.

Turkey and Greece both have basic rights and legitimate interests in the Aegean involving their security, economy, navigation and other traditional uses of the high seas. The two countries have commonly used the Aegean for these purposes in accordance with international law. This has been one of the fundamental elements of the Aegean status quo.

The Greek perception laying claim to the whole of the Aegean Sea and its consistent attempts to alter the status in total disregard of Turkey's rights and interests lie at the heart of the bilateral disputes in the Aegean.

The Aegean is a narrow, semi-enclosed sea with the most peculiar geographical features. The special circumstances are unusual and exceptional. With its complex and singular structure, the Aegean is a unique sea. In view of this, the issue of the territorial sea may not be considered in isolation from the unique features of the Aegean.

Under the present 6-mile territorial sea limit of both countries, Greece, owing to the existence of numerous islands, possesses approximately 43.5 per cent of the Aegean. Turkey's share is 7.5 per cent. The remaining half of the Aegean is high seas, which is freely used by Turkey and the international community in accordance with international law.

Any extension of the Greek territorial sea beyond 6 miles will transform the Aegean virtually into a Greek lake. Greek sovereignty would be extended over the present high seas, the international airspace as well the continental shelf, which remains a disputed area yet to be delimited between Turkey and Greece.

Thus Turkey, with a long coastline in the Aegean measured in thousands of miles, will be locked out of this sea. The Turkish coasts will be encircled by Greek territorial waters and Turkey will be virtually cut off from the high seas.

The consequences of the extension of the Greek territorial sea, in essence, are not limited to the internationally recognized navigational rights and freedoms as has been presented by Greece.

As a result, almost all the Aegean Sea, with its seabed, superjacent waters and airspace, will automatically fall under Greek sovereignty and jurisdiction.

The Greek letter in reference conveniently remains silent on this score and instead refers to the right of "innocent passage" under international law, as if what is involved here solely concerned the right of navigation.

Greece cites article 3 of the 1982 Law of the Sea Convention as the basis of its right to extend its territorial sea. This argument has no valid basis.

In the first place, Turkey is not a party to the said Convention. Secondly, it may be worthwhile to recall that Turkey has consistently maintained its objection to a 12-mile limit for the breadth of the territorial sea in the context of semi-enclosed seas where special circumstances prevail. Therefore, it is obvious that the 12-mile limit could not be opposable to Turkey as a rule that acquired the character of customary law, in the special case of the Aegean. Thirdly, the 12-mile limit envisaged in article 3 is neither compulsory nor a limit to be applied automatically. It is a maximum permissible breadth that may be applied, as the circumstances permit, within the limitation imposed by the general principle of international law as embodied in article 300 of the Convention, namely the obligation to exercise rights in a manner that would not constitute an abuse of right.

In this context, it is worth recalling the recent statement made by Greek European Affairs Minister, George Mangakis, in connection with the ratification of the Law of the Sea Convention. The Athens News Agency bulletin of 1 June 1995 quoted Minister Mangakis as stating that "the Convention was truly of national importance, as it provided the country (Greece) with a weapon in the defence of its rights and national interests". The statement speaks for itself. This is incontestable proof of how Greece perceives the issue of territorial sea.

It was against this background that the Grand National Assembly of Turkey adopted the declaration in question. It was an expression of the legitimate concerns of Turkey in the face of Greek designs on the Aegean.

The Greek letter contains certain inappropriate references in depicting the respective policies and practices of Turkey and Greece. These assertions call for a brief and factual reply.

First, it is alleged that there have been other occasions of violation of international law by Turkey. It is an irony that Greece raises the issue of respect for international law. The Greek attitude and its reluctance in cooperation against terrorism; the illegal Greek claim for 10-mile airspace beyond its 6-mile territorial sea, which is not recognized by the international community; and the militarization of certain islands in the Aegean contrary to its contractual obligations under international treaties that placed these

islands under demilitarized status are outstanding examples of the ostensible Greek claim for respect for international law and legality.

It is also claimed that Greece has a peaceful posture in the Balkans in contrast to the alleged policy orientation of Turkey aimed at the deterioration of the political climate in the Balkan region.

The Greek contribution to peace and stability in the Balkans is manifested by the Greek stand in the ongoing Bosnian tragedy; by the imposition of the illegal embargo against the Republic of Macedonia; and by its hostile policy towards its two neighbours, Albania and Macedonia.

The letter of the Greek Permanent Representative repeats once again the unfounded allegation that Turkey has claims against the Greek islands. This is simply not true. Turkey harbours no designs or territorial ambitions against Greece or any of its neighbours.

Turkey is fully committed to the peaceful settlement of the whole range of disputes through dialogue and negotiations in a spirit of mutual understanding and accommodation. The two neighbours have a vast community of interests in defusing tensions and creating conditions that would ensure the development of friendship. Turkey still awaits a positive response of Greece to its repeated calls for charting such a new course in bilateral relations. This will not only serve the best interests of the two nations, but will also contribute to peace and stability in the region.

Greece, however, seems determined to pursue a different course. It is the declared intention of Greece to retain the threat of unilateral extension of territorial sea in the Aegean as a permanent and perpetual policy instrument in its relations with Turkey.

Turkey will not acquiesce in unilateral acts designed to upset the status quo in relation to maritime jurisdiction areas in the Aegean. Turkey is determined to protect fully its legitimate rights and interests in the face of a fait accompli in the Aegean. Turkey will be obliged to take all necessary measures, as required by the circumstances, for this purpose in the case of such a development.

It is our sincere hope that our neighbour Greece will refrain from pursuing an adventurous policy and realize the long-term benefits of achieving a lasting settlement of bilateral disputes and friendship and cooperation between Turkey and Greece.

I would like to request that this letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under items 39, 75 and 81 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) İnal BATU
Permanent Representative

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Economic and Social Council

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fiftieth session
Item 109 of the preliminary list*
ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
Substantive session of 1995
Item 5 (e) of the
provisional agenda**
SOCIAL, HUMANITARIAN AND
HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS:
REPORTS OF SUBSIDIARY
BODIES, CONFERENCES AND
RELATED QUESTIONS:
ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas

Report of the Secretary-General

1. In its resolution 48/109 of 20 December 1993, the General Assembly requested the Secretary General to prepare a report on the improvement of the situation of women in rural areas and to submit it, through the Economic and Social Council, to the Assembly at its fiftieth session. Reports on the subject have been submitted to the Assembly in 1985 (A/40/239 and Add.1), 1989 (A/44/516) and 1993 (A/48/187-E/1993/76).

2. The issue of rural women has been on the international agenda for a long time. It has been addressed in various conferences and agreements, as reflected in the final documents of the three World Conferences on Women in 1975, 1980 and 1985, the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, in 1979, the World Summit for Children, in 1990, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in 1992, the World Conference on Human Rights and the International Conference on Population and Development, in 1994, and the World Summit for Social Development, in 1995. It was considered at the Summit on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women, organized in 1992 under the auspices

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* A/50/50/Rev.1.

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of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). Issues related to rural women can be found throughout the critical areas of concern in the draft Platform for Action to be adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women. Considerable information has thus been collected, analysed and presented over the past two decades about the situation of women in rural areas.

3. The report requested by the General Assembly will seek to update that information, taking into account a number of new and emerging perspectives on the issue. Because much of the information on which the analysis will be based is only recently becoming available, the present report to the Economic and Social Council is an interim one, setting out the approach and method of analysis being employed. The full report will be submitted to the General Assembly, taking into account the views that may be expressed by the Council.

4. Over the past decade, there has been no radical change in the situation of rural women and the types of actions necessary to improve it. In policy terms, there is a general consensus about what should be done, as expressed in the reports of international conferences and the resolutions adopted by intergovernmental bodies and expert seminars and meetings. These include:

(a) Access to land, capital/credit, technology;

(b) Access to gainful employment;

(c) Support for non-agricultural activities;

(d) Access to markets;

(e) At least a minimum level of social infrastructure;

(f) Availability of basic health and family planning services;

(g) Access to education, including adult education, aimed at eliminating illiteracy;

(h) Access to water, electricity, energy resources;

(i) Social support measures, e.g., child-care facilities and social security;

(j) Access to decision-making at all levels;

(k) Empowerment of women;

(l) Community organization and training.

5. These affirmations have been made in various ways over the past 20 years. There is considerable evidence that, as is the case with the global economy as a whole and with developing countries in general, rural societies are undergoing fundamental changes.

6. Demographic projections now suggest that some time around the year 2006, half of the world's population will be living in urban areas and the proportion of women living in rural areas will continue to decline globally as it has in some regions already.

7. The importance of rural women in the next century will rest more on their impact on the economy and society than on their numbers. It will be related to their contribution to food security and to economic growth, as well as to the maintenance of social cohesion.

8. Taking into account previous analyses, the report will seek to examine the trends that will affect the status of rural women in the twenty-first century. The analysis will centre on the changes in the world in terms of urbanization, environmental protection, globalization of trade, the information revolution and the consequences of women achieving equal rights. It will outline the situation of rural women on the brink of the next century and suggest policy issues that will have to be addressed. In so doing, it will compare the situation of women in countries that have experienced significant economic growth with those in countries that have had slower growth.

9. Urbanization is a universal phenomenon. Urban growth occurs both because of natural growth in urban populations and because of rural-urban migration. In the early stages, migration is the dominant factor. Migration is not gender neutral. It is the gender difference in migration that can determine the situation of rural women.

10. With the rural male exodus, women remain alone to raise children and provide care for the elderly. When they lack the right to ownership of land or livestock or when they have to depend on the remittances of male migrants, poverty is often a consequence. However, when migration is predominantly female, the pattern is different.

11. There is growing evidence that in low-growth areas, it is men who migrate, while in high-growth areas, women migrate, particularly younger women. This can be seen in the table, which shows the ratio of women to men in urban and rural areas among the young adult cohorts. 1/ In regions that have experienced greater and more rapid economic growth, it appears that post-school-age women migrate at a greater rate than men. In countries that have had less growth, it is young men who have been more likely to migrate.

12. The patterns of rural-to-urban migration observed in each of these regions are consistent with regional trends in economic development with respect to trade orientation, the inflow of foreign direct investment and the type of employment in export-processing industries. The creation of export-processing zones in the context of export-promotion policies has undoubtedly contributed to fostering female migration from rural to urban areas in the first and second generation of the newly industrialized economies of East and South-East Asia and Latin American and the Caribbean.

13. Migration has effects on the rural economy generally and on gender relations which need to be examined. On the one hand, male migration can undercut agriculture when food production is affected by traditional sex-based

divisions of labour and when women lack access to credit, technology and markets. On the other hand, female migration can erode traditional systems as migrants take on new urban values, institutions such as the extended family become less effective because of physical distance and kin-based obligations become less important. At the same time remittances from migrants can become a significant part of the rural economy.

Table 1. Ratio of women to men in total, urban and rural population (1990 census round)

(Number of women for each 100 men)

Region	Age group	Total Population	Urban population	Rural population
Africa	15-19	99.7	98.9	110.0
	20-24	100.2	88.5	109.7
Latin America	15-19	98.4	106.1	87.3
	20-24	100.6	108.9	88.2
Western Europe	15-19	95.6	97.2	91.3
	20-24	95.6	98.8	86.5
Asia and Pacific	15-19	94.6	93.0	96.3
	20-24	94.4	90.9	96.9
East Asia	15-19	93.8	93.6	93.8
	20-24	93.5	95.6	86.4
South-East Asia	15-19	96.8	98.7	96.8
	20-24	98.6	100.3	98.2
Eastern Europe	15-19	94.8	93.9	93.4
	20-24	95.2	95.8	92.9

Source: Women's Indicators and Statistics Database (WISTAT), version 3, 1994.

14. The interaction between sex-specific migration and rural society will be examined as a major theme of the report.

15. The transformation of societies towards an urban base provides opportunities as well as problems. The strategic role of rural areas in the production of food becomes more important and can be a source of growth, since an increasing share of production will have to be marketed rather than self-consumed. Moreover, the increase in cash income of the rural population can provide a stimulus for the urban economy through increases in consumption of basic goods. Owing to the fact that, in a large number of the developing countries, women predominate in food production and marketing, this should provide enhanced opportunities for rural women.

16. The concept of food security has been evolving over time, from understanding food security as simply supply and sufficiency at the global and national levels, to focus on access to food and the ability to acquire it not only on the global or national level but also at the household and individual levels. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations defines food security as ensuring that all people at all times have both physical and economic access to the basic food they need.

17. The concept of sustainable food security also implies the consideration of such issues as income and land distribution, fertility and population, as well as the environment.

18. It is recognized that rural women are responsible for producing more than half of the developing world's food supply. In Africa alone, women produce an estimated 70 per cent of the continent's food and purchase nearly all the food consumed by their families. In North Africa and the Middle East, women's heavy involvement in the livestock sector and their labour in family fields results in significant contributions to food supplies. In Asia, there is a tendency for women to work with their husbands in family fields and/or provide family food supplies from their incomes earned in wage labour or in off-farm micro-enterprises. Rural women in Latin America also harvest and process food crops, raise livestock and participate in income-generating activities. Poor households are even more dependent on women's involvement in the production, processing, storage and purchasing of food. Women's capacities to produce food and to generate income to purchase food are critical for the survival of families. There is growing evidence that women allocate a greater share of their incomes to food purchase then do men. Children in female-headed households are often better nourished.

19. Food security is related to economic growth, and growth in production is closely linked to the role of rural women in the development process.

20. This aspect of the situation of rural women will be the second major theme of the report.

Notes

1/ There are few global indicators of rural/urban migration. However, an estimate of the gender composition of migration can be seen from the ratio of women to men in urban and rural populations compared to the national average. If there are more men than the national average in urban areas, the migration has been primarily of males. If there are more women than the national average in urban areas, migration has been primarily of females.

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Fiftieth session
Item 57 of the preliminary list*

COMPLIANCE WITH ARMS LIMITATIONS AND DISARMAMENT OBLIGATIONS

Letter dated 16 June 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador on 14 June 1995, containing the text of the statement by the Government of Ecuador concerning the announcement by the Government of France of the resumption of nuclear tests in the Mururoa Atoll.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 57 of the provisional list.

(Signed) Luis VALENCIA RODRIGUEZ
Permanent Representative

* A/50/50/Rev.1.

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ANNEX

Press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador on 14 June 1995 concerning the decision of the Government of France to resume nuclear testing in the Mururoa Atoll

The Government of Ecuador deeply regrets and expresses its disagreement with the decision by the Government of France to resume nuclear testing in the Mururoa Atoll. This step is at variance with the aim of limiting the proliferation of nuclear weapons embodied in the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which is now in force for an indefinite period.

Ecuador draws to the attention of the international community the fact that France took this decision at a time when, at the meeting of the parties to the non-proliferation Treaty which took place in New York from 17 April to 12 May 1995, a resolution was adopted by consensus calling upon the Conference on Disarmament to conclude negotiations on a comprehensive and total international nuclear-test-ban treaty.

Ecuador condemns nuclear tests of any kind; apart from constituting a first step towards the vertical proliferation of nuclear weapons, such tests have a serious impact on the stability of the environment, which respects no frontiers, and adversely affect human health.

For the foregoing reasons, Ecuador, together with the other members of the Permanent Commission of the South Pacific, issued a press release on 9 June 1995 proclaiming the firm intention of pursuing a policy of regional coordination with respect to the announcement of new nuclear tests in or around the area of the Pacific Ocean.

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S/1995/517
28 June 1995

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fiftieth session
Items 10 and 20 of the preliminary list*
REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION
STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, INCLUDING SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fiftieth year

Letter dated 27 June 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the letter of H.E. Mr. Leonid Kuchma, President of Ukraine, concerning the problem of sanctions and their negative effect on third countries.

I should be grateful if this letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the General Assembly under items 10 and 20 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Anatoli M. ZLENKO
Permanent Representative

* A/50/50/Rev.1.

95-19424 (E) 290695 300695

Annex

Letter dated 8 June 1995 from the President of Ukraine addressed to the Secretary-General

I am pleased to continue our constructive and frank dialogue on the burning issues of international relations, which was given a new impetus during our meeting at the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen. In my opinion, the improvement of such a mechanism of communication facilitates a clearer definition of the problems posed by the unorthodox challenges of the transitional period in world development and the need to seek optimal approaches to their solution.

For that reason, availing myself of this opportunity, I would like as a follow-up to our latest conversation to dwell on a subject that until recently had not been an urgent problem on the agenda of the United Nations. The matter concerns the problem of sanctions, imposed by the United Nations Security Council in accordance with Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations and their negative impact on third countries.

In the last few years, as a result of the large-scale enforcement of mandatory economic measures as one of the instruments to settle conflicts and ensure peace, the problem of negative consequences of the sanctions in general has acquired a new dimension.

In this context, I cannot but agree with the conclusion that you have reached in the position paper "Supplement to an agenda for peace" (A/50/60-S/1995/1), that the sanctions may have a most serious impact on other countries that are the neighbours or the main economic partners of the country on which they are imposed.

Security Council sanctions applied to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) may serve as a vivid example.

Giving due recognition to your efforts in this direction, I would like to express my opinion on the given problem and suggest some approaches as to its settlement.

As a responsible United Nations Member, Ukraine takes an active part in United Nations peace-keeping activities and considers the Security Council sanctions an inalienable and integral part of the international efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement of the crisis in the former Yugoslavia. Their strict and consistent implementation on the part of our country testifies to that.

However, as was stressed during our meeting in Copenhagen, we pay a high price for it, further aggravating the grave economic situation of a country which, on top of everything, carries the heavy burden of mitigating the tragic consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe. In spite of the annual examination of the problem of negative aftereffects of sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and the adoption of the relevant

consensus resolutions (A/48/210, A/49/21 A), Ukraine, like the other Danube riparian States, remains faced with this difficult problem.

Such a situation testifies to the fact that, unfortunately, not all the Charter requirements and principles are, in fact, implemented in full and on time. This concerns, first and foremost, Article 49 of the Charter, which states that "the Members of the United Nations shall join in affording mutual assistance in carrying out the measures decided upon by the Security Council". The Council imposes sanctions on behalf of the whole international community, therefore all its members should shoulder the burden of responsibility for their implementation. In this connection we support your idea expressed in the "Supplement to an agenda for peace" concerning the fact that the losses incurred by imposing sanctions alongside other similar losses should be covered in a just proportion, not only by neighbours or main economic partners of the country in question on which sanctions are imposed, but by all Member States.

The overall negative impact of sanctions on certain regions and countries is so great that solving this problem requires the political will of Member States. It also depends on concerted bilateral and multilateral measures on behalf of the international community. In my opinion, under these circumstances, the United Nations could become a chief coordinator of activities in this field.

The urgent necessity to aid countries in solving their special economic problems is actually recognized by all, including yourself in the above-mentioned position paper. However, in my view, it is insufficient. There is a need for bold and concrete proposals and adequate steps by the international community as a whole as well as individual countries.

In this respect it would be useful to employ the indisputably high authority of the United Nations and your personal influence to encourage the implementation of the following measures towards settling this complex problem:

(a) Opening of special credit lines by international financial institutions to render direct financial assistance to third countries to support technical projects carried out in those countries;

(b) Introduction by the donor countries, on a bilateral and multilateral basis, of trade preferences for third countries, including promotion of their exports;

(c) Donor country support, on a bilateral and multilateral basis, of investments in the economies of third countries, special preference being given to the spheres that sustain direct losses from the sanctions.

There is also an urgent need to consider again establishing an effective mechanism based on Article 50 of the Charter to solve special economic problems, which would include the establishment of a voluntary compensation fund. The question of reducing by United Nations methodology the countries' dues for financing peace-keeping operations by the amount of losses those countries suffer from observing the sanctions regime also requires further consideration.

The time has come to consider the creation of a standing Security Council sanctions committee. It could be charged with the responsibility of estimating the losses the States have already suffered, conducting research on the economic and socio-political consequences of sanctions, coordinating measures to minimize those aftereffects on the most vulnerable population groups and third countries and also controlling their strict observance.

Presenting to your kind attention the above-mentioned proposals, I hope that the United Nations will take an initiative and effectively assist in the settlement of the problems that arise in this connection. Otherwise, we may face a clear danger of undermining the trust of United Nations Member States in sanctions and violating the principle of collective responsibility for taking enforcement measures on behalf of the United Nations.

(Signed) Leonid D. KUCHMA

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S/1995/518
28 June 1995

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fiftieth session
Item 92 of the preliminary list*
THE SITUATION IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES OF CROATIA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fiftieth year

Letter dated 28 June 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter dated 28 June 1995 from the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, Dr. Mate Granić, addressed to you (see annex).

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly under item 92 of the preliminary list and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mario NOBILO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/50/50/Rev.1.

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ANNEX

The Government of Croatia is extremely alarmed and concerned by the latest developments in the "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)" and by the direct implications and consequences of these developments for the occupied territories of Croatia. The degree of involvement of the Belgrade regime on behalf of their proxies in Croatia and the level of its intervention in the occupied territories of Croatia has increased in a significant way recently, and in the last few days in particular. Your Special Representative, Mr. Yasushi Akashi, was informed of this matter of critical importance on 26 June 1995 in Zagreb.

The related developments in the "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)" and the occupied territories of Croatia constitute (i) unauthorized direct military intervention by the "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)" across an international border of a sovereign State, in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and relevant Security Council resolutions; (ii) a continuation of a policy of occupation pursued by the "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)" in violation of General Assembly resolution 49/43 of 9 December 1994; (iii) a violation by the "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)" of the border blockade established by the Security Council in its resolution 943 (1994) of 23 September 1994 and reaffirmed by the Council in its resolution 988 (1995) of 21 April 1995; and (iv) a grave breach of international humanitarian law by the "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)", which amounts to a war crime.

The Government of Croatia has already documented in several letters (S/1995/229, S/1995/401 and A/50/229) that the "Army of Yugoslavia" is actively engaged in Croatia by sending matériel from Serbia and Montenegro to the occupied territories; by directing the paramilitary units in the occupied territories through about 6,000 Belgrade-commissioned officers sent to these territories for that purpose; by paying the wages of those officers and of other members of the proxy government and military; and by forcibly mobilizing citizens of the "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)" and ethnic Serb citizens of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina for military service in the occupied territories of Croatia.

The forcible mobilization is proceeding on a large scale. As at 14 June 1995, over 4,500 mobilized men were transferred against their will while a further 500 volunteers were also transported to the occupied territories of Croatia. The transfer of military personnel from Serbia and Montenegro, across the territory of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, under the control of Bosnian Serbs, is a direct violation of Security Council resolutions 752 (1992) of 15 May 1992, 820 (1993) of 17 April 1993, 871 (1993) of 4 October 1993, 943 (1994) and, in particular, 988 (1995). The soldiers are being transported in vehicles proved by the "Army of Yugoslavia", across the Serbia/Bosnia border at Raća, since 14 June 1995, and have been entering the occupied territories of Croatia at Dvor since 15 June 1995. The mobilization in Serbia and Montenegro and reinforcement of the paramilitary forces in the occupied territories is expected to continue. The majority of those mobilized in Serbia and Montenegro and sent to Croatia are civilians, but a significant number of the conscripts

are members of the special forces of the "Army of Yugoslavia". Some are also sent to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

According to the information available to the Government of the Republic of Croatia, the primary goal of the Belgrade authorities in this regard is to use the transferred special units of the "Army of Yugoslavia" to strengthen further and reinforce their stronghold in the area of Slunj in Croatia, and thereby secure the occupation of this region, as well as to amass considerable forces for further engagements in the strategically important region of Bihać in Bosnia and Herzegovina, a Security Council declared "safe area".

As additional evidence of the direct and increasing involvement of the "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)" in Croatia, I should like to draw your attention to the fact that the commander of the Serb paramilitary forces in Croatia, Lt. General Mile Mrkšić, prior to his present assignment, served as Assistant Chief of the General Staff of the "Army of Yugoslavia", and was responsible for its special forces. Lt. General Mrkšić was also the "JNA" officer responsible for the siege of Vukovar. Moreover, only during the month of June 1995 the following other senior "Army of Yugoslavia" commissioned officers were assigned for duty in the occupied territories of Croatia:

1. Colonel Slobodan Tarbuk from the "Army of Yugoslavia" Kragujevac corps transferred to the 39th corps of the so-called "Army of the Republic of Serbian Krajina (RSK)" in Petrinja, Croatia, on 9 June 1995.

2. Lt. Colonel Vučeković from the "Army of Yugoslavia", transferred to the 11th corps of the so-called "Army of RSK" in Croatia on 23 June 1995.

3. Colonel Uroš Despotović from the "Army of Yugoslavia" transferred to the 70th paramilitary infantry brigade of the so-called "Army of RSK" in Plaški, Croatia, in June 1995.

4. Colonel Milivojević from the "Army of Yugoslavia", transferred to the 70th paramilitary infantry brigade of the so-called "Army of RSK" in Plaški, Croatia, in June 1995.

5. Lt. Colonel Miloš Cvjetičanin from the "Army of Yugoslavia" transferred to the 2nd armoured brigade of the so-called "Army of RSK" in Croatia in June 1995.

6. Colonel Milorad Stupar from the "Army of Yugoslavia" Pančevo special units corps transferred to the paramilitary special forces of the so-called "Army of RSK" corps in Croatia in June 1995.

Furthermore, on 13 June 1995, two "Army of Yugoslavia" tank units totalling 26 M-84 main battle tanks operated by the "Army of Yugoslavia" 211th armoured brigade, were sent from Niš, Serbia, across the border with Bosnia and Herzegovina, and deployed in Slunj, in the occupied territories of Croatia in sector Glina. On 12 June 1995, one unit of armoured personnel carriers (APCs) consisting of 10 vehicles operated by the "Army of Yugoslavia" second motorized brigade was sent from Valjevo, Serbia, across the border with Bosnia and

Herzegovina, and deployed in the same region in Croatia, at Banovina. In addition, on 19 June 1995, the "Army of Yugoslavia" supplied equipage for two Mi-8 rotary-wing aircraft located at the Udbina airport in the occupied territories, sector Knin, through the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I would also like to inform you that as at May 1995 a total of 320 Serb paramilitary troops remain in the zone of separation, in violation of the 29 March 1994 cease-fire agreement and Security Council resolution 994 (1995) of 17 May 1995. Of these, 70 are in sector "Vukovar", 50 in sector "Glina", and 200 in sector "Knin". On 22 June 1995, two new platoons of paramilitary personnel were deployed in the zone of separation in the vicinity of Kasić, in sector "Knin", directly threatening the civilian traffic on the Zadar-Maslenica highway, and, on 23 June 1995, two additional platoons of paramilitary personnel were deployed in the zone of separation near Osijek. The transfer of soldiers from Serbia and Montenegro may have contributed to a troop build-up in the zone of separation.

The aforementioned facts clearly indicate that the Croatian Serb paramilitary forces are a proxy of the "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)" - organized, equipped, controlled, trained and commanded by the "Army of Yugoslavia". The government in Belgrade must therefore be held fully accountable for conducting open military intervention against a United Nations Member State and occupying parts of the sovereign territory of that State.

In this regard, the Government of the "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)" must also be held accountable for grave breaches of international humanitarian law. The forcible mobilization of ethnic Serb citizens of the Republic of Croatia into paramilitary units which are hostile to their country of citizenship, and in which the authorities of the "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)" are involved, represents a grave breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, article 51, and is a war crime (1945 London Agreement).

The blatant violation of international humanitarian law and violation of relevant United Nations resolutions, in particular Security Council resolution 988 (1995), by the "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)" cannot be condoned. My Government hereby submits that the above information should be fully addressed in the upcoming Security Council review of the suspended sanctions regime pursuant to resolution 988 (1995). The Government of Croatia is of the firm view that the above-cited developments constitute a serious breach of resolution 988 (1995), and, therefore, the suspended parts of the sanctions regime must be reinstituted without delay. The Government of Croatia is also of the view that the Council should consider, with utmost urgency, and condemn in the strongest terms the most recent acts of interference by the "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)" in the internal affairs of Croatia, and take appropriate measures in the spirit and the letter of General Assembly resolution 49/43 and Security Council resolutions 871 (1994) and 994 (1995). The condoning of this serious border violation and silence

about Belgrade's intervention in Croatia would be a very serious set-back for the situation in the occupied territories of Croatia and for the peace process in the region in general.

(Signed) Mate GRANIĆ

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NATIONS

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General Assembly

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29 June 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fiftieth session
Item 70 (a) of the preliminary list*

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT: NOTIFICATION OF NUCLEAR TESTS

Note by the Secretary-General

Pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 41/59 N of 3 December 1986 and 42/38 C of 30 November 1987, a communication, dated 30 May 1995, has been received from Australia and is reproduced in the annex to the present note.

* A/50/50/Rev.1.

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ANNEX

Information provided by States

AUSTRALIA

[Original: Engli

[30 May 1995]

1. The Permanent Mission of Australia has the honour to refer to General Assembly resolution 42/38 C, entitled "Notification of nuclear tests", in paragraph 3 of which the Assembly requests States that, while not themselves conducting nuclear explosions, possess data on such events to make those data available to the Secretary-General for circulation.

2. In accordance with that request, the Mission has the honour to attach details of nuclear explosions detected by Australia from July to September 199 (appendix I) and from October to December 1994 (appendix II), as well as an explanatory memorandum to both quarterly reports (appendix III).

APPENDIX I

Quarterly report on presumed underground nuclear explosions a/

July-September 1994

Month 1994	Day	Universal time	Locality	Estimated body-wave magnitude b/	Estimated yield (kilotonnes) c/	Sequence number
July			Nil			
August			Nil			
September			Nil			

a/ Information in the present bulletin was derived from Australian seismological facilities and from institutions in other countries cooperating in the monitoring of earthquakes and nuclear explosions.

b/ Unless otherwise noted, the estimated body-wave magnitude is that published by the United States National Earthquake Information Center and is based on observations of magnitude obtained from around the world, including from Australia.

c/ The yields are estimated using empirical equations, but there is no single agreed formula for the determination of yields. The yields estimated from these relations are not sufficiently accurate to determine compliance with international treaties.

[Correction to previous report: for "1992" under Month, read "1994".]

APPENDIX II

Quarterly report on presumed underground nuclear explosions a/

October-December 1994

Month 1994	Day	Universal time	Locality	Estimated body-wave magnitude b/	Estimated yield (kilotonnes) c/	Sequence number
October	07	0326	Lop Nor, China	5.9	40-150	94/2
November			Nil			
December			Nil			

a/ Information in the present bulletin was derived from Australian seismological facilities and from institutions in other countries cooperating in the monitoring of earthquakes and nuclear explosions.

b/ Unless otherwise noted, the estimated body-wave magnitude is that published by the United States National Earthquake Information Center and is based on observations of magnitude obtained from around the world, including from Australia.

c/ The yields are estimated using empirical equations, but there is no single agreed formula for the determination of yields. The yields estimated from these relations are not sufficiently accurate to determine compliance with international treaties.

APPENDIX III

Explanatory note

When a nuclear device is detonated underground, seismic waves radiate out in all directions. In order to establish that an underground nuclear explosion has taken place, pinpoint its location and estimate the size or yield or the blast, seismologists attempt to detect and analyse the several distinct types of seismic waves generated by the blast. Many factors affect the strength and clarity of these seismic waves, particularly the efficiency with which the explosion transmits energy to the surrounding earth. That efficiency is, in turn, dependent on local geological conditions, such as the hardness and water content of the rock surrounding the explosion. Knowledge of the path through the earth that the seismic signals have travelled is also important.

An international network of seismic stations would add significantly to confidence in the ability to detect and locate the source of underground nuclear explosions, whenever conducted. Australia is actively engaged in the international effort to create such a network and, in addition, has established a number of bilateral links for seismic cooperation. Experts estimate that confidence in an international seismic network would extend to coupled explosions with yields down to about 5 kilotonnes and possibly as low as 1 kilotonne: beyond this, distinguishing nuclear explosions from earthquakes and other seismic "noise" becomes a more difficult task and supplementary measures may be necessary.

Estimating the yield of an underground explosion by remote seismic means is especially difficult on the basis of available data. The relationship between seismic signals and yield is not fixed, but is subject to the vagaries of geology and a number of other unknown factors. At the present time we do not have openly available the large and authoritative database of explosions of known yield in various locations and geological conditions necessary to define the relationship with maximum confidence. This is why the footnotes to the tables in the present report stress that the estimated yields are not sufficiently reliable to determine compliance with international treaties. All these questions are being actively addressed in international forums.

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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND
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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
Substantive session of 1995
Item 8 of the provisional
agenda**

PERMANENT SOVEREIGNTY OVER NATIONAL RESOURCES IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN AND OTHER ARAB TERRITORIES

Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli settlements on the Palestinian people in the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, occupied since 1967, and on the Arab population of the Syrian Golan

Note by the Secretary-General

In its resolution 1994/45 of 29 July 1994, entitled "Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli settlements on the Palestinian people in the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, occupied since 1967, and on the Arab population of the Syrian Golan", the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session, through the Council, a report on the implementation of the resolution. The General Assembly, in its resolution 49/32 of 19 December 1994, repeated that request. The Secretary-General has the honour to submit to the members of the Assembly and the Council the annexed report, covering the period from April 1994 to March 1995, which was prepared by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

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* A/50/50/Rev.1.

** E/1995/100.

ANNEX

Economic and social consequences of the establishment of settlements by Israel in the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, occupied since 1967, and the Syrian Golan

Report prepared by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

1. The establishment of Israeli settlements in the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since 1967 has been the subject of various resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly. In its resolution 446 (1979) of 22 March 1979, the Security Council determined that the Israeli policy and practice of establishing settlements in those territories had no legal validity and constituted a serious obstruction to achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East. That position was reaffirmed unanimously in Security Council resolution 465 (1980) of 1 March 1980, in the preamble of which the Council took into account the need to consider measures for the impartial protection of private and public land and property, and water resources, and affirmed the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, 1/ to the Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem. In 1980, the International Labour Conference also expressed concern regarding the establishment of settlements and called for an end to that policy, as well as the dismantling of existing settlements.

2. At its forty-ninth session, in 1994, the General Assembly, having considered the reports of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (A/49/67, A/49/172 and A/49/511), adopted resolution 49/36 of 9 December 1994, in which, inter alia, it expressed its concern about the continued violation of the human rights of the Palestinian people by Israel and reaffirmed in particular that the Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and the other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, were illegal and an obstacle to a comprehensive settlement.

3. The General Assembly, in its resolution 49/132 of 19 December 1994, took note of the note by the Secretary-General on the economic and social consequences of the establishment of settlements by Israel in the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, occupied since 1967, and the Syrian Golan (A/49/169-E/1994/73); recognized the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli settlements on the Palestinian people in the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem, and on the Arab population of the Syrian Golan; reaffirmed the inalienable right of the Palestinian people and the population of the Syrian Golan to their natural and all other economic resources, and regarded any infringement thereof as being illegal; and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the progress made in the

implementation of the resolution. The present report is submitted in response to that resolution.

4. The building of settlements began shortly after the Six Day War in 1967, with the first being established in the Syrian Golan. Since that time, that policy has been developed more or less intensively and has accelerated since the beginning of 1990. 2/ Financial and tax incentives offered by the Government encourage settlers to make their homes in the occupied territories.

5. The signature on 13 September 1993 by the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements (A/48/486-S/26560, annex) was a landmark in the history of Israeli-Palestinian relations. The Declaration states in its article I that the aim of the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations is "to establish a Palestinian Interim Self-Government Authority, the elected Council ... for the Palestinian people in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, for a transitional period not exceeding five years, leading to a permanent settlement based on Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973)". The Declaration deferred discussion of the issue of settlements until the negotiations on permanent status, which should start not later than the beginning of the third year of the interim period, i.e., in May 1996.

6. On 4 May 1994, the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization concluded an agreement in Cairo for the implementation of the Declaration of Principles signed in September 1993 (A/49/180-S/1994/727, annex). Soon after the Cairo agreement, the Israeli army completed its withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, but left some forces in the area surrounding 16 Israeli settlements occupied by approximately 4,000 settlers.

7. In July 1992, the Prime Minister of Israel announced a freeze on official settlement activities. During the period under review, the Prime Minister has continued to assert his Government's commitment to the freeze. At a meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee in January 1995 he said: "We stand by our obligation that no building will take place outside Israeli sovereign territory except for cases where it is necessary in live settlements, and the building of 10,000 housing units which had already been started". 3/

8. Despite such declarations, official and private settlement activity in the occupied Palestinian territories has continued. International concern about the issue was demonstrated by the debate convened in the Security Council on 28 February 1995, in response to a letter dated 22 February from the Permanent Representative of Djibouti addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1995/151).

9. During that debate, the Permanent Observer for Palestine stated that Israeli settlements had been established on occupied Palestinian lands, including Jerusalem, since 1967, in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention. In numerous resolutions, the General Assembly and the Security Council had reaffirmed the applicability of the Convention to all the territories occupied by Israel since 1967 and called on Israel, the occupying Power, to abide by its provisions. Nevertheless, settlement activity had continued until the present date, resulting in the existence of approximately 140 settlements in the

occupied Palestinian territories, inhabited by approximately 300,000 settlers, including those in East Jerusalem. The Permanent Observer stated that a continuation of Israeli settlement policy could not be reconciled with seeking to move forward in the peace process. While the Declaration of Principles led to the postponement of negotiations on a number of important issues, including settlements, this did not mean any change in the Palestinian or international community's position on the status of the settlements, which were illegal and constituted a real obstacle to the achievement of a comprehensive peace.

10. The Permanent Representative of Israel prefaced his remarks by stating that the debate in the Security Council was incompatible with the agreements signed by the Palestine Liberation Organization and Israel to resolve all outstanding permanent status issues, such as settlements and Jerusalem, in direct and bilateral negotiations. In these same agreements, the Palestine Liberation Organization had committed itself to settling these issues at a specific time, in the negotiations on permanent status, at the final stage of the process. The Permanent Representative of Israel stated that, at the time of its formation in July 1992, the present Government of Israel substantially changed Israel's settlement policy. This was not done because of any external pressure or legal claims, and the new policy was adopted long before the agreements with the Palestine Liberation Organization. Israel had not established any new settlements in the occupied territories since that time nor would it in the future. The Government had stopped allocating public resources to support the extension of existing settlements, and no land had been confiscated to establish new ones.

11. The Israeli Prime Minister, in a written reply to a question addressed to him by the Chairman of the Legal Affairs Committee of the Israeli Parliament (Knesset), stated that, since the signing of the Declaration of Principles, the Israeli army had closed off areas totalling 38,000 dunums* in the West Bank for the purpose of expanding its training grounds. The army also expropriated 750 dunums in order to establish camps and local command centres and 2,560 dunums to build six military roads. 4/ In the Gaza Strip, moreover, from the signing of the Declaration to the end of 1994, the Israeli army expropriated 71 dunums, which it used for establishing military positions. 5/

12. According to a report prepared by an expert and based on sources in the Israeli Civil Administration in the West Bank and documents published by that Administration, since the 1991 Madrid Conference, the Israeli authorities have expropriated some 12,000 dunums on the pretext of setting up nature preserves. The report notes that most of the quarries and stone-crushing mills established in the West Bank since the Oslo Agreement are situated in the western part near the Green Line, which indicates that there is a plan to shift the Line east of its present location in order to annex additional West Bank land. The report indicates that the land expropriated for that purpose comprised a total area of 16,733 dunums. On 23 December 1993, building plan No. 16/52 was filed, which included 2,677 dunums of land belonging to Tarkumiye, Dura and Khirbet Jamrura in the Hebron region. On 11 August 1994, building plan No. 24/55 was filed for a digging and stone-cutting project covering an area of 9,685 dunums in the

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* Dunum is a measurement that equals approximately 1,000 m_2.

Tulkarm region. On 26 August 1994, building plan No. 29/52 was filed for the Telem quarry covering an area of 1,744 dunums and situated on lands belonging to Dhahiriyya and Dura in Hebron. The enterprises situated in the eastern portion of the West Bank, moreover, pose a real threat to the agricultural lands in the Jordan Valley region, owing to the fact that they produce environmental pollution, especially since the prevailing winds in the region are from the west throughout the year. These enterprises include the Mabsur Basa'il quarry, situated on land belonging to the village of Majdal Bani Fadil, for which the related building plan No. 10/52 was filed on 31 March 1994 and which covers an area of 127 dunums; and the Kawkab al-Sabah stone-grinding enterprise, covering 2,500 dunums on land of Kafr Malik, for which the building plan was filed on 20 May 1994. 6/

13. The Israeli authorities issued a military decree carrying the number 93/4 on Saturday, 30 July 1994, 7/ closing an area of approximately 12,000 dunums of agricultural land in the Jiftlik/Jordan Valley district, in the pretext of security reasons, forbidding Palestinian inhabitants and farmers to enter their lands for a period of 10 months (from September 1994 to June 1995), precisely the period during which winter crops are grown in that warm region. The area that was closed off contains 17 artesian wells and is considered the principal source of agricultural products to supply the markets of the West Bank during the winter season. This closure decree, which, according to Palestinian sources, will be repeated every year, 8/ will deprive approximately 3,000 Palestinian farmers of their principal livelihood, and will create many difficulties for families that own houses within the closed area. It will also have a negative impact on the Palestinian economy in general, with the loss of the agricultural season, higher prices, increased importation of agricultural products and a rise in the number of unemployed persons. 9/

14. With regard to settlement roads, the Israeli authorities continue their policy of expansion of roads throughout the occupied Palestinian territories. It is estimated that more than a billion Israeli shekels (approximately 331 million United States dollars) will be spent for the building of a network of settlement roads during the next three years in preparation for the application of the second stage of the Declaration of Principles. 10/ The purpose of the expansion of these roads is to build a network of roads and streets connecting the Israeli settlements with one another, on the one hand, and to link those settlements to cities within Israel, on the other hand. However, the roads will bypass Palestinian cities, villages and agglomerations, so as to ensure the greatest protection for the Jewish settlements. Palestinian experts view this plan as an attempt to prejudice in Israel's favour the results of the negotiations on the occupied lands in the final stage, inasmuch as it will tend to consolidate a new geographical situation that will be difficult to change and whose implementation will involve the expropriation of thousands of dunums of land in Arab districts. 11/

15. With a view to the execution of the plans for settlement roads, the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee has budgeted 30 million Israeli shekels (approximately 10 million United States dollars) to build a settlement road in the Ramallah area during the current year (1995). 12/ In a report that it published in early 1995, the Peace Now movement affirmed that a plan existed to build such a settlement road, which is to make a detour around the city of

Ramallah on the east, connecting the settlements of Ofra, Pesagot and Adam with highway number 60, and that the plan calls for the expropriation of 2,640 dunums. 13/ On 17 January 1995, Palestinians from the town of Bira staged a protest against this project in the areas threatened with expropriation. The Israeli army intervened in order to disperse the protesters, the soldiers using tear-gas bombs and beating participants. 14/ Israeli analysts feel that this road and the three other roads whose creation has been announced by the Israeli authorities, in addition to involving the expropriation of vast areas of Arab land, will encourage more Israelis to reside in the Jewish settlements, which will offer them safe routes that do not pass through Palestinian towns. 15/

16. The execution of the building plans for settlement roads did in fact begin in the southern part of the West Bank in mid-December 1994. One of these is plan No. 956 for highway 356, which forms part of highway 80, and another is the project for highway 35, which will link Taqwa' and Hebron without passing through the Arab villages of Si'ir and Shuyukh. 16/

17. Regarding the expansion of Jewish settlements, a report prepared by the Peace Now movement disclosed the filing of 11 building plans with the Israeli Civil Administration in 1994, including the creation of thousands of new housing units in the Jewish settlements over an area of 4,000 dunums. This indicates the intention to provide housing for tens of thousands of new settlers. The report states that it appears from the study of those plans that the aim behind them is to create a Jewish demographic settlement bloc along the entire line from the Kafr Kasem interchange to Givat Ze'ev, north of Jerusalem, by expanding the settlements of Kedumim, Elkana 2, Nahleil, Dolev and Beit Horon, which will result in the creation of an enclave containing tens of Palestinian villages peopled by thousands of Palestinians, cut off from the rest of the West Bank. Building in the vicinity of Efrat, south of Jerusalem, moreover, and the improvement of the Jerusalem-Gush Etzion road, which includes tunnels and bridges, reveals a plan to create a similar enclave in the southern area. 17/

18. In September 1994, the Israeli Ministry of Construction and Housing announced that 87 apartments were being offered for rent in three settlements located near the Green Line. In addition, the Israeli Prime Minister approved the preparation of new land for the building of additional housing units in Alfe Menache, a settlement located 3 kilometres from the Green Line. 18/

19. The results of a study done by two Israeli experts for Knesset member Dedi Zucker showed that settlement-building operations in West Bank settlements were proceeding at an unprecedented rate, in contrast to the policy adopted by the Israeli Government. The study, which was carried out at the beginning of 1995 and included 49 settlements, indicated that the building operations were being carried out by private companies, without any financing by the Israeli Government but with permits from the local councils and Israeli ministry officials. Thus, at present 325 new housing units are being built in the settlements of Elkana, Alfe Menache, Saffarin Tekfa, Berman, Ari'el and Hashne'em. Knesset member Zucker believes that private building has been practised since 1992 as an effective way of circumventing the government decision to freeze the building of settlements and turn that decision into a concept devoid of content. The study, he went on to say, showed not merely that the Israeli ministries turned a blind eye to what was going on, but that they

cooperated effectively with the settlers in the attempt to thwart the government decision to freeze the construction of settlements. The findings of the study also showed that the Government was facilitating the sale of the housing units built by private enterprise and continued to install public utilities and provide the necessary infrastructure on an open, regular basis, thus helping to stimulate the settlement movement. 19/

20. Of particular importance from the standpoint of expansion of Jewish settlements is the report prepared by the Israeli Ministry of Construction and Housing, details of which were published by the Israeli press. According to the report, during 1994 the Ministry allocated 140 million shekels to infrastructure development and construction in settlements in the West Bank. During the current year, the Ministry will allocate 95 million shekels for the same purpose, including 60 million shekels for the building of 3,200 housing units in three settlements in the Jerusalem area and 19 million shekels for the construction of housing units and infrastructure works in settlements in the Jordan Valley. 20/ The report stated that in 1994 the Ministry had built 1,833 new housing units, including 1,026 in Betar, 796 in Ma'aleh Adumim and 10 in the Jordan Valley. During the current year, 900 units are to be built in Betar, 1,080 in Ma'aleh Adumim, 400 in Kiryat Sefer, 800 in Givat Ze'ev, 300 in Givat Hezet and 50 in the Jordan Valley. This intensive construction is expected to result in an increase in the number of Jewish settlers by approximately 12,000. 21/

21. Furthermore, the Jewish settlers, through their various organizations, the most important of which is the Jewish Settlements Council, have prepared a master plan for promoting Jewish settlement during 1995 based on enterprises either already carried out or currently being planned and including the construction of 6,262 new housing units in 20 settlements in the north, centre and south of the West Bank. 22/

22. The plans for settlement in Jerusalem for 1995 involve the proposed building of thousands of housing units in Jewish settlements on the outskirts of Jerusalem within a circle about the city of Jerusalem having a diameter of 23 kilometres. 23/ As Israeli authorities issue conflicting statements regarding the legitimacy of the term "Greater Jerusalem", the work of expanding existing Jewish settlements and establishing new settlements within the confines of the map of Greater Jerusalem is being stepped up. At the same time that the Israeli Minister for Foreign Affairs declares that "Greater Jerusalem" is "not a political term" and that Jerusalem's borders are those defined by the government decision of 1967 and the 1981 Jerusalem law, which does not include such places as the settlements of Ma'aleh Adumim, Givat Ze'ev or Betar, the Israeli Construction and Housing Minister reaffirms his commitment to the map of Greater Jerusalem and to efforts to strengthen the surrounding Jewish settlements. 24/

23. The settlement of Ma'aleh Adumim, which lies 7 to 8 kilometres east of Jerusalem, is an example of the intensified settlement activity taking place on the outskirts of Jerusalem. At the end of 1994, the Israeli Ministry of Tourism approved the building of 4,000 hotel rooms in areas belonging to the settlement. The Israeli Ministry of Construction and Housing, moreover, has begun the construction of 2,000 new housing units there and is planning to build 3,000 more units and to use 6,000 dunums of land added to the settlement in

December 1994, pursuant to a military decree issued by the Military Commander of the Central District. 25/ A main bypass is being built at the junction leading to the settlement, involving a government investment amounting to 15 million shekels, and newspaper sources have noted that the Israeli Civil Administration intends to transfer the present military checkpoint, located near the village of Ze'em on the road to Jerusalem several kilometres to the east, beyond the settlement. The Israeli Deputy Minister of Construction and Housing, commenting on these reports, said that as far as he was concerned, Ma'aleh Adumim and its area of influence were not part of the West Bank but were considered a settlement in the centre of the country. Thousands of housing units would be erected in Ma'aleh Adumim every year, including the current year, he said, in order to link the town to Jerusalem. 26/

24. In addition, there have been repeated reports of plans to build new settlements in the area surrounding Jerusalem, including Har Homa and Rekhis Shuafat. 27/ The Israeli press has carried reports of a plan prepared by the Israel Land Department involving the building of more than 30,000 housing units in Jerusalem over the next five years, most of them in Arab areas of the city and its surroundings. Construction is expected to begin on 10,000 housing units during the current year. 28/

25. The number of settlers living in Jewish settlements increased over the past year, the bulk of this increase being recorded in settlements in the area around Jerusalem. 29/ According to the Jewish Settlements Council, as of October 1994 the total number of Jewish settlers was approximately 140,000, including 135,000 living in 125 settlements in the West Bank and 6,000 in 20 settlements in the Gaza Strip. The information provided by the Settlements Council, which is based primarily on the payment of local taxes, conflicts with the figures announced by the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics in its bulletin of 21 March 1995, according to which the number of Jewish settlers in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip had undergone a 9 per cent increase over the past year, reaching 127,000. 30/ In the first half of 1994, 1,637 new Jewish immigrants moved to East Jerusalem out of a total of 41,291 who arrived in Israel during that period. 31/ The number of Israeli settlers in East Jerusalem, according to "official and unofficial Israeli sources, together with press reports", has reached till the end of 1994, more than 170,000 settlers. This brings the total Israeli settler population living in East Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to more than 300,000. 32/

26. The policy of stepped-up Jewish settlement and relocation of thousands of Jews to the city of Jerusalem is being implemented at the expense of Palestinian residents of the city and Arab villages. The clearest evidence of this is furnished by the operations of destroying Palestinian homes built without permits in the Jerusalem area. Owing to the limited land allocated for building by Arabs, the difficulty of obtaining a building permit and the high cost of such permits, Palestinians usually have no choice but to build their homes without a legal permit. In September 1994, hundreds of Palestinians and sympathetic Israelis held a demonstration near homes in the Tur district whose destruction had been ordered by the Israeli authorities. In a joint statement issued by them, the demonstrators affirmed that since 1986 the Israeli authorities had destroyed a total of 210 Arab homes in the city of Jerusalem for reasons relating to permits, and that destruction of homes was currently going

on at the rate of 50 per year. The statement added: "Increased building of settlements, expropriation of Palestinian land and destruction of homes constitute a carefully thought-out [Israeli] policy aimed at driving out the Arab population and upsetting the demographic balance in favour of the settler presence in Jerusalem". The number of Palestinian families in Jerusalem who have no shelter or live in inadequate housing as a result of the policy of destruction and expulsion followed by Israel is estimated at approximately 21,000. 33/

27. In the occupied Syrian Golan Heights, a new Israeli settlement was established in August 1994 and named "Dor Ha Golan", bringing the number of Israeli settlements built in the Golan Heights since 1 '67 to 33. 34/ Construction work to expand existing settlements continued, and 2,000 new housing units, the construction of which began before 1992 during the Likud rule, are near completion. Construction work in those units was halted for about seven months, from July 1992 when the new Labour Government issued an order to freeze construction work until March 1993, when the freezing order was rescinded in the Golan. Work also continued to develop the infrastructure of the settlements, and private and public funds were invested in roads as well as in agricultural, industrial and tourism enterprises. The Israeli Minister of Industry confirmed in October 1994 the Government's continued support for the development of the Golan: "The government policy by which the Golan Heights was termed a national priority 'A' region [entitled to the most generous development and housing benefits] must be upheld". 35/

28. Israeli sources estimated that the number of settlers in the Golan increased during 1994 by 10 per cent. A study carried out by the Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies in Tel Aviv in 1994 reveals that the number of settlers during the period July 1991 to March 1994 increased by 2,143, as their number rose from 11,017 in July 1991 to 12,000 in 1993 and reached 13,160 in March 1994. 36/

29. In addition to land seizure and the establishment and expansion of settlements, the utilization of water resources in the occupied Palestinian territories is an important issue that negatively affects the lives of Palestinians and their economic and social conditions. According to Palestinian estimates, the per capita water consumption among Palestinians in the West Bank ranges between 22 and 28 cubic metres as compared with 165 cubic metres for the Israeli population. This great disparity is due to a series of military orders that restrict the utilization of available water resources by Palestinians and prevent them from drilling new wells or developing existing ones while allowing Israeli settlers to drill new wells in their settlements and pump large quantities of water without control or restriction. 37/

30. According to Palestinians, the Israeli water policy in the Gaza Strip has led to a "dangerous" and "distressing" situation. Riad al-Khodary, Head of the Palestinian Delegation to the Multilateral Talks on Water, says: "Israel's infringement on water resources in the Gaza Strip is embodied in the following three major steps: first, diverting the course of the Gaza river before it reaches the Green Line, which entails the loss of 20 million cubic metres of rainwater; second, the drilling of 25 wells along the eastern border of the Strip, which deprives it of half of the water flowing to it from the West;

third, the pumping by the Gush Katif settlements of Palestinian groundwater through the 14 wells existing in those settlements". 38/ Water experts believe that the depletion of water reserves in the Gaza Strip and sea-water intrusion have caused the salinity of the water to be six times higher than the internationally accepted level and thus 60 per cent of the water is no longer suitable for drinking or irrigation purposes. 39/

31. The uprooting of fruit trees by the Israeli occupation authorities and Israeli settlers is a daily Israeli practice in the West Bank as it was in the Gaza Strip previously. It is estimated that, during the period of the intifadah, the Israeli authorities uprooted more than 117,000 olive trees in order to build settlements and for security reasons. Sewage leaking from Israeli settlements spoiled more than 500 dunums of vineyards in the West Bank. The annual loss resulting from these practices was estimated at $1.5 million, the overall loss exceeding $10 million. 40/

32. The occupied Palestinian territories were sealed off by the Israeli army several times during 1994 and the first months of 1995. The closure led to the breakdown of all productive sectors and public services in the Palestinian areas, in addition to preventing tens of thousands of Palestinian workers employed in Israeli economic sectors from reporting for work, which contributed to raising unemployment rates, especially in the Gaza Strip, where 65 per cent of the active population is unemployed.

33. After a suicide attack carried out by Palestinians in October 1994 in Tel Aviv, the Israeli Prime Minister called for "complete separation of the Israeli and Palestinian peoples in order to curb terrorism". In the wake of another suicide attack carried out last January, the Israeli Prime Minister established a military security committee headed by the Minister of Police and entrusted with the task of formulating plans for implementing the total separation of Israel and the Palestinian areas. The committee submitted a plan that includes the building of a security fence, the deployment of soldiers and border guards as well as the establishment of checkpoints and an early warning system and barbed wire. In addition, it prohibits Palestinians from working in Israel, bans travelling and transport and shuts off Jerusalem. The proposed security zone will be 30 kilometres long to the east of the Green Line, where Israeli soldiers will be stationed, and will use advanced technological means as well as trained dogs. Eight to 10 crossing points will be established along the separating zone. The implementation of the plan will cost half a billion United States dollars. 41/

Appendix

Encroachment and seizure of Palestinian lands and the building of settlements on them

(April 1994-March 1995)

Location	Area (in dunums)	Measures	Source
Rantis village/ Ramallah district	Hundreds of dunums	Lands that were seized in November 1993 were cleared, and dozens of olive trees were uprooted in order to build two roads to serve the settlers.	Al-Quds, 14 April 1994
Shuafat and Beit Hanina	380	Land and real estate were seized pursuant to the decision taken by the Organization and Construction Committee of the Jerusalem Municipality in order to complete the building of road No. 1, which links the southern and northern parts of Jerusalem.	Al-Nahar, 20 April 1994
Al-Musafir village/ Yatta/Hebron district	30 000	The village was sealed off by the army, and its 8,000 inhabitants grouped in 12 units were evacuated and prohibited from undertaking agricultural and pastoral activities.	Al-Quds, 23 April 1994
Taquu village/ Bethlehem	12	The land, which is planted with hundreds of fruit trees and contains a cemetery belonging to one of the families living in the village, was seized and fenced.	Al-Quds, 4 May 1994

Location	Area (in dunums)	Measures	Source
Yasuf village	30	The land, which is planted with olive trees, was sealed off by the army.	Al-Quds, 27 April 1994
Qaryut village	Unspecified	Settlers from the nearby Raheel settlement built a road 4 kilometres long and uprooted dozens of olive trees, whereas settlers from the "Ilia" settlement built another road to the east of the village.	Al-Quds, 31 May 1994
Siniria village/ Tulkarm district	400	The Civil Administration informed the inhabitants of the village of its intention to close the site for security reasons.	Al-Quds, 9 June 1994
Area of Wadi Shubash between Mghir and Raba villages	32 000	The area was sealed off by the army, and farmers and shepherds were expelled forcibly.	Al-Quds, 10 June 1994
Al-Walja	18	The land was seized under the pretext that it was situated behind the Green Line. The confiscated land is planted with olive and apricot trees.	Al-Quds, 24 June 1994
Kafr Qaddum	1 000	It was announced that the land had been seized and annexed to the "Kadumim" settlement in the context of the general organization plan of the Mutsibih Kadumim district in the settlement.	Al-Quds, 23 June 1994

Location	Area (in dunums)	Measures	Source
Taqwa' village/ Bethlehem district	5	Settlers from the neighbouring Taqwa' settlement seized the land and erected power lines on it.	Al-Quds, 4 July 1994
Haris village/ Nablus district	100	The land seized was fenced with barbed wire, and its owners were prohibited from entering it; work started in order to build a road to serve the settlers.	Al-Quds, 14 July 1994
Jiftlik North Jericho Jordan Valley	12 000	The area was closed by the army pursuant to military order 93/4, which prohibits the inhabitants and farmers of the region from entering it during the period 1 September 1994 to 1 June 1995, the period during which winter crops are cultivated in this warm region. Some 500 families will be affected by this decision, which will also lead to the closure of a primary school managed by UNRWA.	Al-Quds, 31 July 1994
Kafr Laqif	60	Settlers from the "Kerneh Shamron" settlement are building sports fields on the land, which belongs to the inhabitants of the village.	Al-Quds, 5 August 1994
Khidr village/ Bethlehem district	Hundreds of dunums	The cultivated area was cleared in order to build road No. 60 to serve the settlers.	Al-Quds, 2 August 1994

Location	Area (in dunums)	Measures	Source
Kafr al-Labad/ Tulkarm	200	The land was seized in order to expand the Anab settlement situated to the east of the village.	Al-Quds, 8 August 1994
Husan	Unspecified	The Israeli army built a fence 2 kilometres long and 6 metres high around a large area of the village under the pretext of protecting the inhabitants of the neighbouring "Eitar" settlement from stone-throwing. The land that was fenced is planted with olive trees.	Al-Quds, 28 August 1994
Deir Balut	Unspecified	The inhabitants of the village received an order from the military authorities authorizing the seizure of an unspecified area of their lands in order to use it for military purposes.	Al-Quds, 23 August 1994
Al-Dhahiriya	40	Settlers from the nearby "Tineh" settlement seized the land and fenced it with barbed wire.	Al-Quds, 11 September 1994
`Beit Anan/Ramallah	350	The land was seized under the pretext that it was situated behind the Green Line in no man's land, and work started in order to build a road to serve the settlers.	Al-Quds, 9 October 1994
Dura and al-Dhahiriya/Hebron	4 000	The land was seized in order to establish a quarry.	Al-Quds, 29 October 1994

Location	Area (in dunums)	Measures	Source
Aqraba/Nablus	1 500	The land, which includes three drinking-water wells, was seized by settlers.	Al-Nahar, 15 December 1994
Kafr Qaddum	6	The land was seized by settlers from the nearby Kadumim settlement.	Al-Quds, 20 December 1994
Iskama	70	The land was cleared in order to build a security fence around the nearby Areel settlement.	Al-Quds, 28 December 1994
Husan and ar-Rachaida/ Bethlehem district	100	The land was closed by the army in order to build a road linking the settlements of the region to road No. 60. Some 2,286 olive and fruit trees and vines were uprooted.	Al-Quds, 30 December 1994
Al-Isawiya/ Jerusalem	6 000	The governor of the central region ordered the annexation of this area to the Ma'aleh Adumim settlement in order to build a new district for the settlers.	Al-Quds, 9 December 1994; Ha'aretz, 21 December 1994
Al-Lubban al-Sharqiya/ Nablus	Unspecified	Lands were cleared, and more than 700 olive trees were uprooted in order to build a road linking the nearby Areel settlement.	Al-Quds, 6 February 1995

Location	Area (in dunums)	Measures	Source
Bira	Unspecified	The municipality of Bira received a notification regarding the seizure of an unspecified area of land to the north of the town in order to build a road 11 kilometres long and 100 metres wide. The road will also cross the lands of Yatin, Ain Yabrud, Salwad, Barqa and Deir Dabwan villages.	Al-Quds, 26 December 1994

Notes

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2/ Clyde Mark, "Soviet Jewish emigration", CRS Issue Brief (Washington, D.C., Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress, 1994).

3/ The Jerusalem Post, 18 January 1995, p. 2.

4/ Al-Quds, 6 March 1995, p. 1.

5/ Land Research Committee of the Arab Studies Society, Special report on land confiscation and settlement in the West Bank - Palestine (in Arabic) (Jerusalem), p. 11.

6/ Al-Nahar, 5 September 1994, report by Khalil Al-Tafakaji, settlement affairs expert, Jerusalem, pp. 1-9.

7/ Al-Quds, 31 July 1994.

8/ Ibid., 8 August 1994, p. 6.

9/ Ibid.

10/ Foundation for Middle East Peace, Report on Israeli Settlement in the Occupied Territories (Washington, D.C., May 1995), p. 1.

11/ Ibid., 3 December 1994, p. 6.

12/ Ibid., 13 December 1994, p. 6.

13/ Peace Now, Report on Planned Expansion of Settlements (Jerusalem, January 1995), p. 2.

14/ The Jerusalem Post, 18 January 1995, p. 1.

15/ Ibid., p. 2.

16/ Al-Quds, 13 December 1994, p. 5.

17/ Peace Now, Report on Planned Expansion of Settlements (Jerusalem, January 1995), p. 1.

18/ Al-Quds, 1 October 1994, p. 9.

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20/ The Jerusalem Post, 18 January 1995, p. 1.

21/ Al-Quds, 18 January 1995, p. 6.

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23/ Ibid., 20 January 1995, "Map of settlement in Greater Jerusalem", p. 2.

24/ The Jerusalem Post, 19 January 1995, pp. 1-2.

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26/ Ibid., 6 January 1995, p. 24.

27/ The Jerusalem Post, 13 December 1994, p. 1.

28/ Al-Quds, 25 November 1994, p. 7.

29/ Ha'aretz, 14 November 1994.

30/ Ar-Rai, 22 March 1995, p. 1.

31/ Foundation for Middle East Peace, Report on Israeli Settlement in the Occupied Territories (Washington, D.C., November 1994), p. 2.

32/ Ibid., p. 8.

33/ Al-Quds, 11 September 1994, p. 6.

34/ Foundation for Middle East Peace, Report on Israeli Settlement in the Occupied Territories (Washington, D.C., February 1995), p. 9.

35/ Ibid.

36/ Ibid.

37/ Al-Quds, 25 August 1994, p. 9, and 22 April 1994.

38/ Ibid., 26 September 1994, p. 4.

39/ Ibid., 19 April 1994, pp. 1 and 18.

40/ Ibid., 2 March 1995, pp. 1 and 22.

41/ Ar-Rai, 18 March 1995, p. 26.

UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

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A/50/263
29 June 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fiftieth session
Item 121 of the preliminary list*

PATTERN OF CONFERENCES

Control and limitation of documentation: provision of written meeting records to subsidiary organs of the General Assembly

Note by the Secretariat

1. In paragraph 3 of its resolution 49/221 B of 23 December 1994, the General Assembly requested the following bodies to submit, in accordance with existing procedures, to the Assembly at its fiftieth session, through the Committee on Conferences, justifications for the continuation of the current entitlement to meeting records:

(a) United Nations Administrative Tribunal (when holding oral hearings);

(b) Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;

(c) First Committee;

(d) Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

(e) Subsidiary organs of the General Assembly that meet on the occasion of international days of solidarity proclaimed by the Assembly;

(f) Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

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* A/50/50/Rev.1.

95-19520 (E) 100795 120795

2. On 18 January and 6 February 1995, letters were sent to the relevant secretaries asking them to bring the Assembly's request to the attention of the aforementioned bodies.

3. As at 31 May, replies had been received from the United Nations Administrative Tribunal, the First Committee, the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People; the latter is the only subsidiary organ of the General Assembly that now meets on the occasion of an international day of solidarity proclaimed by the Assembly. The substantive parts of those replies are contained in the annex to the present note.

4. The replies from the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees will be issued in an addendum to the present note.

5. The following table indicates the number of meeting records prepared for the six bodies in question during the last five years and, for comparison purposes, the total number of records (both verbatim and summary) done in New York, Geneva and Vienna during the same period.

Number of meeting records done in 1990-1994

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
Administrative Tribunal (PV)	1	1	-	1	-
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (PV)	15	14	13	14	13
First Committee (PV)	50	45	40	37 a/	26
Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (PV)	15	21	14	17	12
Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (PV)	1	1	1	1	1
Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (SR)	13	10	10	8	8
Total	95	92	78	78	60
Total for New York	757	777	880	887	864
Geneva	469	424	384	459	497
Vienna	23	99	33	111	36
Grand total	1 249	1 300	1 297	1 457	1 397

a/ Of which 33 were summary records.

Annex

I. UNITED NATIONS ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL

Letter from the Executive Secretary

[Original: English]

[23 February 1995]

Meeting records are used by the Tribunal only when it holds oral hearings, which is quite infrequently. No oral hearings were held in 1994, and only one oral hearing was held in 1993. There were no oral hearings in 1992.

When the Tribunal holds oral hearings in a case under review, it is essential to have a written record of the hearing. The members of the Tribunal review the records in their own subsequent deliberations on the case and, in the event of further proceedings, pursuant to articles 11 or 12 of the statute of the Tribunal, meetings records would be the only admissible evidence of oral hearings.

In the light of the sparing use that has been made of meeting records by the Tribunal and in the light of the fact that transcription of oral hearings are a standard court practice, the Tribunal requests recognition of the need for continuing entitlement to meeting records as necessary.

II. FIRST COMMITTEE

Letter from the Secretary of the Committee

[Original: English]

[2 May 1995]

The Disarmament and International Security Committee (First Committee), which deals exclusively with disarmament and international security agenda items, was provided in the past with verbatim records of its meetings except at the forty-eighth session, during which the Committee was provided with summary records.

The Committee, in accordance with established practice, begins its session each successive year with a substantive general debate followed by an extensive exchange of views on all disarmament and international security items. In the course of those two phases, delegations register the national positions of their respective Governments and present new proposals and suggestions on the various items before the Committee.

Since, in many instances, the items allocated to the First Committee remain on its agenda for several years, the verbatim records of each session of the Committee are a source of substantive background information on various subjects

for other disarmament bodies such as the Conference on Disarmament, the Disarmament Commission, etc. These verbatim records are considered to be very helpful to those bodies in the fulfilment of the respective mandates entrusted to them. In this connection, it is pertinent to note that the General Assembly, almost every year, requests the Secretary-General to provide one of the aforementioned bodies, namely, the Disarmament Commission, with the official records of the First Committee. For instance, by paragraph 12 of its resolution 49/77 A, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to transmit to the Disarmament Commission the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament together with all the official records of the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly relating to disarmament matters.

Furthermore, I would like to add that it is equally essential for delegations and the Secretariat to have an accurate record of what is stated by Member States. This is especially important with regard to explanations of vote, where no written texts are provided by delegations addressing the Committee. In instances where a delegation does not wish to cast a negative vote or does not want to break a consensus reached on a text, it may nevertheless wish to have its views or positions reflected in the official records of the Committee. In addition, not all delegations prepare written texts even for major statements during the general debate and during the structured thematic debate in the First Committee. Hence, unless records of the debate are maintained, major difficulties would be encountered in referring later to the positions expressed by Member States. It would require delegations to maintain their own records and the Centre for Disarmament Affairs would perhaps be obliged to transcribe a summary record of the proceedings, thereby creating an additional workload for the staff, which is already stretched to the limit of its capacity.

Moreover, in view of the ongoing process of rationalization and reform of the work of the First Committee, the programme of work of the Committee was further revised at the forty-ninth session in order to promote a more detailed and focused discussion of agenda items, in the future, as follows:

(a) Formal meetings, including the phases of a general debate and consideration of and action on draft resolutions submitted under all disarmament and international security agenda items;

(b) Informal meetings, including the phase of thematic discussion of specific items under consideration in the First Committee;

(c) Formal meetings, including the phase of a general debate, consideration and action on draft resolutions submitted under the item entitled "Question of Antarctica".

Consequently, since only formal meetings require verbatim records, the total number of official records of the First Committee, as a result of the new approach, has been drastically reduced from more than 40 formal meetings in the previous years to less than 25 meetings at the last session of the General Assembly. The reduction of such a magnitude with respect to the official records will continue to result in significant savings for the Organization.

III. SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

Letter from the Secretary of the Committee

[Original: English]

[13 February 1995]

The matter was raised at a Bureau meeting of the Committee on 30 January 1995 during which members unanimously agreed to maintain the practice of recorded meetings for the 1995 session, following the recommendation made by the Working Group contained in the report of the Special Committee adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session (A/49/23 (Part I)).

At the same meeting, the members of the Bureau also decided to review the question again in 1996.

IV. COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE OF THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

Letter from the Chairman of the Committee

[Original: English]

[15 May 1995]

The Solemn Meeting of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People to commemorate the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People takes place on 29 November each year in accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/40 B of 2 December 1977.

The Committee believes that, in view of the importance of the International Day and its political sensitivity, as well as the high level of participation, the provision of the verbatim record for the Meeting should be maintained. The verbatim record also constitutes a very useful and accurate historical account of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fiftieth session
Items 39, 75 and 81 of the
preliminary list*
STRENGTHENING OF SECURITY AND
COOPERATION IN THE
MEDITERRANEAN REGION
MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fiftieth year

Letter dated 29 June 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I do not deem it necessary to detain you with a detailed answer to the letter addressed to you by the Permanent Representative of Turkey (A/50/256-S/1995/505) in reply to mine dated 9 June 1995 (A/50/216-S/1995/476), for the simple reason that Mr. Batu's letter fully confirms the point that I brought to your attention with regard to the recent resolution adopted by the Turkish National Assembly, namely, that Turkey has once more violated the fundamental principle enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations that calls for restraint from the threat or use of force in international relations, and to which Turkey has subscribed, thus assuming the obligation to uphold it as a State Member of the Organization.

This persistent Turkish practice is openly and defiantly admitted by the Permanent Representative of Turkey, who maintains in his letter that there are bilateral differences between Greece and Turkey on the issue of the Aegean Sea, while making it very clear, at the same time, in unequivocal and threatening terms, that his country is determined to protect its rights and interests through all possible means.

I leave it to your judgement and to that of the other Members of the United Nations, to appreciate Turkey's commitment to international law and order and to respect of its own signature.

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* A/50/50/Rev.1.

As regards the assurances given by Mr. Batu that Turkey does not harbour any designs or territorial ambitions against Greece or any of its neighbours and without going into any historic retrospection that would give ample and eloquent proof of Turkey's traditional performance in the broader area of the Balkans and the Middle East, suffice it to recall the notorious contemporary case of the military invasion and ongoing occupation of Cyprus.

I would like to request that this letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under items 39, 75 and 81 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Christos G. ZACHARAKIS
Permanent Representative

UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

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30 June 1995

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Fiftieth session
Item 20 of the preliminary list*

STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, INCLUDING SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

Letter dated 27 June 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the original of a letter from Mr. Leonid Kuchma, President of Ukraine, concerning the issue of international cooperation in alleviating the negative consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 20 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Anatoli M. ZLENKO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Ukraine
to the United Nations

* A/50/50/Rev.1.

ANNEX

Letter dated 8 June 1995 from the President of Ukraine addressed to the Secretary-General

On the eve of the Summit at Halifax and as a follow-up to our substantial talk during the World Summit for Social Development at Copenhagen, I would like to draw your attention to the top priority problem for Ukraine, which has recently evoked wide international response.

This concerns the Chernobyl disaster, which, by its scale, effect on the ecological situation and socio-economic aftermath, has overstepped the boundaries of one country, presenting a global problem of today.

Our State has experienced by itself all the tragedy of the nuclear disaster and is doing its best to secure a proper safety level in the operating nuclear power plants in the context of the overall reform of the energy supply sector. Special attention is being paid to solving the whole range of problems related to the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant.

We understand world public concern over the ongoing operation of the plant, the accident at which caused so much trouble to the peoples of Europe. We are also aware that it is the "Chernobyl syndrome" rather than the technical condition of the equipment and the safety level of the station that is giving rise to demand on the part of the world community to close the plant down immediately.

Mindful of that factor, Ukraine has taken a principled political decision to close down the Chernobyl plant before the year 2000. The schedule of consecutive decommissioning of the plant's power units worked out by Ukrainian experts has confirmed how strong is our commitment. However, in view of the unbalanced economy and energy supply crisis, Ukraine is at present unable to resolve independently the whole range of issues related to decommissioning the station, including the problem of social protection of its personnel.

We are conscious of the fact that Ukraine must ensure the observance of safety requirements at all stages of the decommissioning of the Chernobyl plant. To that end, preparatory work for erecting spent fuel storage, construction of compensating capacities, implementation of the "Shelter" project and transforming the contaminated zone into an ecologically safe system, must be carried out. Should no solutions with respect to all the above-mentioned measures to be implemented prior to the closure of the plant be found, Chernobyl could well turn into the biggest radioactive waste dump in Europe.

To resolve this vast problem in the shortest possible time, Ukraine counts on relevant technical, technological and financial assistance on the part of G-7 States, the European Union, international organizations and the financial institutions.

In our opinion, the United Nations could also play a special role in developing the international assistance programme. Proceeding from this, may I

address to you, on the eve of the sad date - the tenth anniversary of the accident at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant - a request that you use the high authority of the United Nations and your personal influence with a view to mobilizing joint action by all the world community to stop the "Chernobyl ghost" from wandering across Europe. The complexity of the problem which Ukraine is to resolve jointly with all the countries of the world in the immediate future requires courageous and innovative decisions.

I sincerely hope that the issues raised in this letter will find your understanding and support.

(Signed) Leonid KUCHMA